

THE Western Standard

TO CORRECT MIS-REPRESENTATION WE ADOPT SELF-REPRESENTATION.

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ASTONISHING ADVENTURES OF JAMES BOTELLO.

The voyage of Vasco di Gama around the Cape of Good Hope into the Indian Ocean, was the beginning of a complete revolution in the trade of Europe and the East. This trade, which, following the expensive route of Egypt and the Red Sea, had been for a long time in the hands of the Venetians and Genoese, suddenly turned itself into the new and cheap channel opened by the enterprise of the Portuguese. The merchants of Genoa and Venice found themselves unexpectedly cut off from their accustomed sources of wealth, while a tide of affluence rolled into the mouth of the Tagus, and Lisbon became the commercial mart of the world.

The success of the Portuguese gave a new impulse to the spirit of enterprise which had already been excited among the maritime nations of Europe by the discoveries of Columbus, and efforts to divert a portion of the golden current soon began to be made. The Spaniards, debarred from following the direct route of the Portuguese, by their own exclusive pretensions in the west, and the consequent decision of the Pope, granting to them the sole right of exploration beyond a certain line of longitude to the west, and confining the Portuguese to the east, had, under the guidance of the adventurous Magellan, found a westerly route to the Indies. The English were busy with several schemes for a short cut to the north-west. The Dutch were beginning to give signs of a determination, despite the Pope's decision, to follow the route by the Cape of Good Hope. As may be imagined, these movements aroused the jealousy of the court and merchants of Lisbon. They trembled lest their commercial monopoly should be encroached upon, and every care was taken to keep the rest of Europe in ignorance of the details of the trade, and of the discoveries and conquests of their agents in the East.

Of course nothing could be more injurious to a Portuguese of the time than to be suspected of a design to aid with advice or information the schemes of foreign rivals. Unluckily for James Botello such a suspicion lighted upon him. It was rumored that he was disposed to sell his services to the French. He was known to be a gentleman of parts, well acquainted with the East—having served with credit under the immediate successors of Vasco de Gama—and as competent as any one to lead the Frenchman into the Indian Ocean, and to initiate him into the mysteries of the trade. The suspicion, however, could not have been very strong, and probably had no real foundation in truth, or else more stringent measures than appear to have been used would have been adopted by an unscrupulous court to prevent his carrying his designs into execution. The rumor, however, had its effect; and Botello soon found that his influence at court was gone, and that he had become an object of jealous observation.

Anxious to give the lie to this calumny, and to regain the favor of his sovereign, John III, Botello embarked as a volunteer in the fleet which was taking out to Calicut the new viceroy, De Cunha. Upon the arrival of the fleet, the operations of the Portuguese, both military and commercial, were carried on with renewed vigor; and in all these Botello bore his part, but without being able wholly to remove the suspicions with which he was sensible his actions were still watched by his superiors. A favorite project of the Portuguese—one that had been pursued with energy and by every means of diplomacy or war—was the establishment of a fort in Diu, a town situated at the mouth of the Gulf of Cambaya. Several times the capture of the place had been attempted by force, but without success. Even the great Albuquerque had been foiled in a furious attack. Failing in this, the Portuguese repeatedly endeavored to get permission to erect a fort for the protection of their trade, by per-

suasion or artifice. It had become an object of the most ardent desire, as well with the king and court at home, as with the viceroys and their officers in the East.

It happened now in the year 1534, that Badur, king of Cambaya, was sorely pressed by his enemy the Great Mogul—so much so, that he was compelled to call in the assistance of his other enemy, the Portuguese. The price of this assistance was to be permission to erect and garrison a fort at Diu. Badur hesitated; he knew that if the Portuguese were allowed a fort, they would soon be masters of the whole town; but his necessities were urgent, and he finally acceded to the demand. De Cunha rushed to Diu; a treaty was speedily concluded with Badur—the fort was planned, and its erection commenced with vigor.

No one better than Botello knew how pleased King John would be with the news. He resolved to be the bearer of the good tidings, and thus restore himself to the royal favor. His plan was a bold and daring one; in fact, considering the known dangers of the sea, and the then imperfect state of navigation, it must have seemed almost hopeless; but he suffered no doubts or apprehensions to prevent him from carrying it into immediate effect. In order to conceal his design, he gave out that he was going on a boat excursion up the Gulf of Cambaya, to visit the court of the now friendly Badur. Two young soldiers, of inferior degree, named Juan de Sousa and Alfonso Belem, readily consented to accompany him. The boat selected for the voyage was a small affair—something like a modern jolly boat, though of rather greater beam in proportion to its other dimensions; its length was sixteen feet, its breadth nine feet. Four Moorish slaves from Melenda, on the coast of Africa, were selected to work the boat, while two native servants, having Portuguese blood in their veins, completed the crew.

Botello's preparations for the voyage were soon made; and waiting only to secure a copy of the treaty with Badur, and plans of the fort which had been commenced, he ordered the short mast, with its tapering lateen yard, to be raised, and the sail trimmed close to the breeze blowing into the roadstead of Diu. But instead of turning up along the northern coast of the Gulf of Cambaya, he directed the bow of his little bark boldly out to sea.

His companions knew but little of navigation; but they knew enough to know that a south-westerly course was hardly the one on which to reach Cambaya. To the remonstrances of Juan and Alfonso, Botello simply replied that he preferred sailing south with the wind, to rowing north against it; and they would find the course he had chosen the safest and shortest in the end.

In this way they sailed for three days. On the morning of the fourth, Botello found that it would be impossible for him longer to turn a deaf ear to the mutterings of discontent among his crew. It was high time for an explanation of his plans; and trusting to his eloquence and influence, he proceeded to unfold his design.

Imagine the astonishment and dismay depicted in the countenances of the servants and sailors when he told them that he purposed making the long and dangerous voyage to Lisbon in the miserable little boat in which they had embarked. But as he went on commenting upon the feasibility of the project, discussing the real dangers of such a voyage, and ridiculing the imaginary, and dilating upon the honors and rewards which they would win by being the first bearers of the tidings they carried, a change from dismay to hope and confidence took place in the minds of all his hearers, excepting the African sailors, who did not much relish the idea of so long a voyage to Christian lands. They, however, were slaves and infidels, and their opposition was not much heeded.

To every objection Botello had a plausible reply. He confidently asserted his knowledge of a safe route, and of his ability to preserve their little craft amid all the dangers of the sea.

"But may we not be forestalled in our news, after all," demanded Alfonso, "by the vessels from Calicut?"

"No fear of that," replied Botello. "The news from Diu will not reach Calicut for a month, and then it will be too late in the moon-son to dispatch a vessel, even if one were ready. Besides, I have certain information that the viceroy has determined that no dispatches shall be sent home until he can announce the completion of the fort."

"I like not this new route you propose," said Juan. "Why leave the usual course to Melenda?"

"Because we should be in danger of exciting the suspicions of our brethren who now garrison the forts of Melenda, Zanzabar, and Mozambique, and perhaps be detained. No, we will take a more direct course—strike the coast of Africa below Sofala, and then follow the shore around the Cape of Good Hope."

"And what are we to do for provisions and water, in the mean time?"

"Of provisions we have a store that will last until we reach land, when we can obtain supplies from the natives; as to water, we must go at once upon the shortest possible allowance, and daily pray for rain—St. Francis will aid us. I can show you something that will set your minds easy upon that point."

Botello produced a box from beneath the stern sheets, and opening it, took out with an air of reverence a leaden image of the saint.

"See this," he exclaimed, in a tone of exaltation. "It was modelled from the portrait recognized by the aged Moor. Have you not heard of the miracle?—true, you were not at Calicut. Know, then, that a few months since, a native of India was presented to the viceroy, whose reputed age amounted to three hundred years. His story was, that in early youth he encountered an aged man lingering upon the banks of a stream which he was anxious to pass. The youth tendered the support of his strong shoulders, and bore him across the water. As a reward for the service, the old man bade the youth to live until they should meet again. And thus had he lived, until a few months since he was presented to De Cunha, when he at once recognized in a portrait of St. Francis the holy man whom he had carried across the stream. This image was modelled from that portrait; it was blessed by the pious convert in whose person was performed the miracle. Our voyage must be prosperous with this on board."

The sight of an image taken from a portrait acknowledged to be the saint himself, removed all doubt. And what Botello's arguments and persuasions might have failed to accomplish, was easily effected by a little image of lead. A heretic might, perhaps, have questioned the saint's power over the physical phenomena of the sea, but he could not have denied his moral influence over the minds of the adventurous voyagers who confided in him. No hesitation remained, except in the minds of the four slaves, who, having been forcibly converted from the errors of Mohammed, were yet somewhat weak in the true faith.

It was this want of faith that led to one of the most lamentable events of the voyage. They had been out more than a month without having had sight of land, and not even a distant sail had lighted up the dismal loneliness of the ocean. It must be recollected that a solitude was the vast surface of the Indian and Pacific seas in those days. Beside the Portuguese fleets that followed each other at long and regular intervals, Christian commerce there was none, while Arabian trade was small in amount, and confined to certain narrow channels. The Moorish slaves had never before been so long in the open sea, and their fears increased as day after day the little boat bore them farther to the south. The provisions were also, by this time, nearly exhausted, and the daily allowance of water proved barely sufficient to moisten their parched lips. The slaves, after taking counsel among themselves, demanded that the course of the boat should be arrested.

"And which way would you go?" asked Botello. "Back to Diu? It would take three months to reach the port, and long ere that we should starve."

"Let us steer, then, directly for the African coast. Melenda must be our nearest port."

"Never!" returned the resolute Botello. "I will run no risk of having our voyage frustrated by the jealousy of my old enemy, Alfonso Peristrello, who has command at that station. Courage for a few days more, and we shall see land. There are isles hereaway that you will deem fit residences for the blessed saints—such fruits! such flowers!"

The promises of Botello had influence with all of his companions excepting the Moors, whose muttered discontent suddenly assumed a fierce and menacing aspect. Luckily, Botello was as wary as he was brave.

It was in the middle of the night that, stretched upon the midship thwart of the boat, he noticed a movement among the Moors, who occupied the bow. One of them moved stealthily towards him, and bending over him, cautiously sought the hilt of his dagger; but before he could draw it, the grasp of Botello was upon his throat, and he was hurled to the bottom of the boat. With a shout, the other Moors seized the boat-hooks and stretchers, and rushed upon Botello; but Juan and Alfonso were upon the alert, and drawing their long daggers, rushed to his defence. Never was there a more desperate conflict than on that starlit night, in that frail boat, that floated a feeble, solitary speck of humanity on the bosom of the vast Indian sea.

The conflict was desperate, but it was soon over. The Portuguese of those days were other men than their degenerate descendants of the present age; and, besides, the slaves were over-matched both in arms and numbers. Three were slain outright, and the fourth driven overboard. One of the Portuguese servants was killed; thus diminishing the number of the voyagers more than one-half—a lucky circumstance, without which, most probably, the whole would have perished.

For a week longer the little bark stood on its course, when a violent storm threatened a melancholy termination to the voyage. The wind, however, was accompanied by rain, and Botello kept up the spirits of his friends by attributing the storm to St. Francis, who had sent it expressly to save them from dying by thirst. It would have been perhaps more easy to believe in the saint's agency in the matter had there been less wind; for in addition to the danger of being engulfed by the heavy sea, their clothing, which they spread to collect the rain, was so deluged with salt spray as to make the water exceedingly brackish. Bad as it was, however, it served to maintain life until they reached a little rocky, uninhabited island in the channel of Mozambique.

It was with some difficulty that a landing place was found. Upon ascending the rocks, a few scattered palms exhibited the only appearance of vegetation. Their chief necessity—fresh water—however, was found in abundance, standing in the hollows of the rocky surface, where it had been deposited by the recent storm. Several kinds of wild fowl showed themselves in abundance, and so tame as to suffer themselves to be caught without any trouble; while crowding the little sandy inlets were thousands of the finest turtles.

At this spot Botello and his companions rested for a week; which was spent in caulk-ing and repairing their boat and sail, drying and salting the flesh of fowl and turtle, and in filling every available vessel with the precious fluid so liberally furnished by their patron St. Francis.

A succession of storms followed their departure, and tossed them about here and there for so many days, that their reckoning became exceedingly confused. Botello, however, was an accomplished navigator, and his sailor instinct stood him in good stead. Upon returning fair weather he conjectured that he was abreast of Cape Corrientes, and the bow of the

boat was directed, due east, for the African coast.

Calm followed storms. The oars were got out, and day after day the clumsy boat was pulled through the long rolling swell of the glassy sea. Still no sight of land. Their provisions were getting short again—their water was reduced to the lowest possible allowance, and the labor of the oar was rapidly exhausting their strength. The image of St. Francis was hourly appealed to. Sometimes his aid was implored in most humble prayers—sometimes demanded with the wildest imprecations and threats. One day Botello seized the little St. Francis, and whirling him on high, threatened to throw him into the sea, unless he instantly granted a sight of land; no land showed itself, and the saint was reverentially replaced in his box. But he was not to rest there long in quiet. The next day the ingenious Botello announced to his sinking companions that he had a plan to compel the saint to terms. The image was produced from its box, a cord was fastened around its neck, and it was then thrown overboard. Down went his leaden saintship into the depths of the ocean. "And there he shall remain," exclaimed Botello, "until he sends us land or rain." An hour had not expired when a faint bluish haze in the eastern horizon attracted all eyes. A favorable breeze springing up, the sail was hoisted, and as the boat moved under its influence, the haze grew in consistency and size. Land was in sight.

The land proved to be a point in Lagos Bay—a familiar object to Botello. Upon going ashore, a party of natives received him, with whom friendly relations were soon established, and from whom provisions and water were readily obtained. A few days served to recruit the exhausted strength of the party, when taking again to their boat, they coasted along the shore, landing at frequent intervals, until they reached the dreaded Cape of Storms, as the southern point of Africa was called by its first discoverer, Bartholomew Diaz.

The Cape did not belie its reputation. From the summit of Table Mountain, and the surrounding high lands, it sent down a gust that drove the unfortunate voyagers away from the land a long distance to the south-west; and many weary and despairing days were passed before they were able to make the harbor of Saldahana. Here the chief necessity of life—fresh water—was found in abundance, and a supply of provisions obtained, consisting chiefly of dried flesh of seals, with which the harbor was filled. A few orange and lemon trees, planted by the early Portuguese discoverers, were loaded with fruit, and afforded a grateful and effectual means of removing the symptoms of scurvy which were beginning to appear.

Saldahana being a resting place for the outward-bound Portuguese fleets, Botello made his stay as short as possible, lest he should be intercepted and turned back by some newly appointed and jealous viceroy. For the same reason he avoided several points on the coast of western Africa where his countrymen had stations—keeping well out to sea and from the mouth of the Congo, and steering a direct course across the Gulf of Guinea. He knew that if a Portuguese admiral had sailed at the appointed time, he must be somewhere in that Gulf, and that his tall barks would hug the shore, creeping from headland to headland slowly and cautiously. The energetic Botello and his companions had encountered too many dangers to be frightened at the perils of a run across the Gulf, and the resolution was adopted to give the Portuguese fleet, by the aid of St. Francis, the go-by in the open sea.

The run was successfully achieved; not, however, without many weary days at the oar, and many an appeal to St. Francis for favoring winds, and for aid in the sudden tornadoes which frequently threatened to engulf them. Cape de Verd was reached; the barren shore of the great desert passed, with but a single stoppage in the Rio del Ouro—a slender arm of the sea setting up a few miles into the sands of Sahara. Here a few dates and some barley

cakes were purchased of a family of wandering Arabs; and again putting to sea, the shores of Morocco were cautiously coasted. Without further adventure, but not without further suffering, and labor, and danger, the short remaining distance was passed. The head of the Straits of Gibraltar—the headlands of Spain—the southern point of Algarve, successively came in sight; and then the sailing mouth of the golden Tagus greeted their longing eyes.

And thus was happily finished this wonderful voyage—a voyage which, if performed in the present day, with all the means and appliances of navigation, would excite the admiration of the world, but which, under the circumstances of the age, the prejudices and ignorance of the voyagers, and the imperfect state of maritime science, may truly be considered the most astonishing upon record. It must be observed, too, that this was no involuntary boat expedition—no desperate alternative of some foundering ship's crew—but the deliberate, carefully considered project of an experienced sailor; and that the hardship evinced in its conception was surpassed by the resolution, perseverance, and skill, with which it was conducted to its end.

The presence of Botello was soon known to his friends; and the rumor spread through the city that an Indian fleet had arrived off the mouth of the Tagus. It reached the court, so that upon his application for an audience of the king, he found no detention except from the curiosity of the courtiers and ministers; which, however, he resolutely refused to satisfy, until he had communicated his news to the royal ear. Botello exhibited his copy of the convention with Badur, king of Cambaya, and the plans of the fort which was being erected at Diu, and related the history of his adventurous voyage. King John freely expressed his astonishment and delight, and calling around him the members of his household, familiarly questioned Botello as to all the little details of his voyage.

There was a pause in the conversation. Botello threw himself upon his knees. "There is one point," he exclaimed, upon which your majesty has not condescended to question me."

"What is that?" demanded the king. "My reasons," replied Botello, "for undertaking this long and hazardous voyage. Your majesty knows, or at least many of your majesty's enemies know, that I am one not over cautious in confronting danger, either by sea or land; but I should never have had the courage to make myself the bearer of tidings however important, as I have done, without some reason other than the desire of astonishing the world by a feat which by many will be pronounced simply fool-hardy. Your majesty will believe me—I had another and a better reason."

"And that reason was—"

"The favor of my sovereign, and the removal of the undesired suspicions with which my motives and feelings had been visited."

"Rise," replied the king, extending his hand, and smiling graciously. "Our suspicions were of the slightest. We will take some fitting opportunity of showing that they are gone for ever."

The courtiers overwhelmed Botello and his companions with congratulations. The king accompanied him to see the boat, and upon dismissing him, renewed his assurances of favor and reward—assurances which Botello found were destined never to be realized. The next day a change had come over the royal countenance—the jealousy of trade had been aroused. It would be a terrible blow to the commercial monopoly, already threatened from so many quarters, to have it known that the voyage from the East Indies had been performed in an open boat. Botello was informed that, for reasons of state, his boat must be destroyed, but that he himself should ever continue to enjoy the favorable opinion of his sovereign. As an earnest of the royal favor, which was some day to exhibit itself more openly, he was appointed to an office of no great consequence, and which had also the disadvantage attached to it of a residence in the interior of the country.

Once installed, he found that he was little better than a prisoner for life. His movements were closely watched by the officials around him; his communications with the capital cut off, and to all his remonstrances and petitions the only reply was that the king's service required his continual residence in his department. Botello was not a man to quietly submit to such an unjust restraint; but unluckily his health began to fail. His body found itself unable to withstand the challenges and struggles of his energetic and adventurous spirit under the mortifications and discommodities of his position; the fears and suspicions of the court of Lisbon were soon removed by his death. His boat had been burned—his companions had been sent back to India, and it was not long before the fact of his extraordinary voyage had passed from the public mind.

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The Western Standard.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1.

MORMONISM, WHAT IS IT?

Has been the question often asked and repeatedly answered, whether truly or not, to suit the whim of the person interrogated. It is a system that is less understood and more spoken about, than any other system that has had an existence since the days of Christ and his apostles. Reports concerning the Mormons and their doctrines have been bruited abroad from one end of the land to the other, until there is scarcely a person who has not heard something in relation to it whether good or bad. Travelers have written voluminous works on the practices, belief and peculiarities of the Mormons, and Editors, taking up the cry, have rehearsed it, making such comments upon them as suited their ideas; and yet, notwithstanding all this, Mormonism still remains the wonder of the age—an inexplicable enigma which men have strove in vain to solve or account for.

Many having formed their ideas in relation to it from the reports of those who have taken delight in misrepresenting us, have thought we were a very impure and corrupt people; and, therefore, they have looked upon our rise, progress and present position with feelings akin to dread. The influence possessed and exercised by the leaders of this strange people is so uncommon and unheard of, that it is sometimes thought to be dangerous, and a power that should be checked. This, however, is not a new feeling contemporary with our settlement in Great Salt Lake Valley, but has been in existence from the organization of the Church twenty-five years ago, up to the present time. The first announcement made by Joseph Smith produced it, and every movement made since that time has increased it. To this feeling, so groundlessly indulged in, we can ascribe the persecution and difficulties that have attended us since our outset.

Notwithstanding all that has been said and done about Mormonism, it is not yet comprehended or understood. That there is a power connected with it, which is, to say the least, wonderful, all reasoning and thinking men will readily admit; but that it is the power of God, or that He has anything to do with it, the majority are very loth to assent to. From nonentity and obscurity it has sprung into existence and notoriety; and its missionaries have traversed every known continent, and many islands, proselyting and gathering in its believers, until they have swelled into a great people; and not the least of this wonder is, that these proselytes, coming as they do from almost every nation and kingdom, assemble themselves together, and are united to an extent unknown heretofore in the history of mankind since the days of Christ.

When men become acquainted with its principles and obedient thereto, they notice a great change in their ideas and views in relation to the Scriptures, and there is a singular union of feeling in regard to points of doctrine. Persons obeying the principles in Europe or Asia, upon mixing with those of their faith in America, find their ideas correspond exactly, although they may have been taught by men who never had exchanged thoughts, and who, in many instances, were mere novices in the system which they advocated. There is no jar, no opposition or diversity of opinion, but all think alike on the principles they have embraced. The Mormons confidently state that the system which they preach is the gospel of Jesus, and that these are the results which accompany it. It is an undoubted fact that these were precisely the results which accompanied the preaching of the gospel in primitive times; for we read that they were of one heart and mind, and that, whether Jew or Gentile, bond or free, previous to becoming acquainted with the gospel, all differences of opinion were speedily dropped, and they became united on the great doctrines taught them by the apostles for their salvation.

And if the Mormons place extraordinary confidence in their leaders, it is because they believe those leaders to be inspired of God, and

endowed with the authority necessary to lead and teach the people. It is this that causes them to act as they do. Could they be persuaded otherwise, or did they not know that this was the case, the union that now constitutes so marked a characteristic of the people, would become disunion, and disorder and confusion would take the place of order.

But, we are frequently asked, is not this power held by the Mormon leaders dangerous; has it not been and can it not be prostituted to effect base objects? To all such inquiries we answer, no; it is not dangerous, neither can it be used to effect base purposes, if it is the power which we believe it to be. Our history may be traced, and every act of Joseph Smith or Brigham Young may be scanned and criticized, and we feel confident in stating, that they will stand the test of investigation; and if it is undertaken in a spirit of impartiality, it will prove, that instead of an improper use being made of the power which they have held, it has always been used on the side of right, and to improve and better the people. Did they act upon the principle which men in the political arena too frequently act when they obtain power, then there might be cause for apprehension; but this is not the case, neither has it been.

We are aware that in making this statement in relation to the leaders of the Mormons, we come in contact with the generally received and popular opinions of the day. Facts, however, are what we are dealing with, and not mere assertion. Had it not been for the influence so constantly exercised by the Prophet Joseph, while living, during our early troubles in Missouri and elsewhere, to restrain the people when imposed and trampled upon by mob violence, and suffering every indignity that could be heaped upon them, a very different course would have been pursued. And yet he was looked upon as a dangerous man—a traitor, and as a foment of strife and difficulty.

At the time he was killed, under circumstances of aggravated cruelty, while a prisoner in jail on the charge of treason, with the pledged honor of the State for his safety, it was the influence of the leaders alone that prevented the people from giving vent to their indignation by avenging his death in the blood of his murderers. These feelings were the feelings natural to their circumstances; they had suffered repeated wrong and injury from the hands of their oppressors, and all on account of their religious belief, until it was almost past endurance; and many felt that they would rather die, contending for their liberty, than suffer these indignities any longer. But the wise and judicious counsels of the leaders prevailed, and they submitted to it without resistance, leaving their cause in the hands of the Lord. We were again obliged to forsake our lands and inheritances; and again also the voices of the leaders were continually heard urging the people to submit to their circumstances unresistingly and uncomplainingly. And this has been the course and the policy universally urged upon the people by the leaders from that time to the present. Had the people acted their feelings when the requisition was made for the Mormon Battalion to be raised, they would have spurned the proposition with contempt under the circumstances in which they were then placed—houseless and homeless in the midst of an Indian country—as another indignity to be added to the already accumulated catalogue; but through the indefatigable exertions and perseverance of President Young and his associates, the Battalion was raised and they cheerfully complied with the demand.

They have unceasingly endeavored to teach the people that it is far better to suffer wrong than to do wrong; and, yet, these are the men who have been branded as traitors, and accused of designs inimical to the government. We have only enumerated a few instances, familiar as household words to every Mormon, where the leaders have used their influence to preserve and maintain the friendly relations which ought at all times to exist between the governed and the party governing. We do not seek to be their apologists—their acts need no apology from us—but merely to state the case as it really exists, and speak of things which we know.

If many of the conductors of public journals had been as desirous to show the people the good side of Mormonism as they have been, what they are pleased to call, the bad side, it would have obviated the necessity of our having recourse to this method to make our belief public. There have been, however, honorable exceptions, who have not thought it any disparagement to speak of the Mormons as they found them, and have had the manliness to write the truth about them whenever they have written on the subject.

We are perfectly willing, yes, and even desirous to have our principles investigated. Our books and publications are open to all; and if there is anything contained in them that sanctions iniquity, or immorality in any shape, we are unaware of it, and would feel thankful, if such were the case, to have it pointed out to us. Our experience teaches us that no man can live up to the principles of Mormonism as we understand it, and be impure or practice iniquity. The whole tenor of the preaching of the leaders of the Church is to this effect—warning the people in regard to sin, and striving to instill into them an abhorrence of all such things.

When the Elders of our Church go forth,

these are also their teachings; they do not teach men to practice incorrect and unholiness, or to be traitors to their country, or violate any of its laws; on the contrary, they are, if they follow the instructions they have received, continually endeavoring to inculcate correct principles, to teach men to repent of their sins and forsake them, and live near unto the Lord. And any man who does not observe these things, however much he may be called a "Mormon," is not one, neither is his course approved or upheld by the Church. We do not wish our principles to be measured or estimated by the actions of individuals; but we desire to see them tried on their own merits. We contend that they are correct and truthful, and that, when lived up to, they will make men good and virtuous, and will enable them to live together in harmony.

If these principles are inimical to our Constitution or Government, or subversive of good order and the rights of man, then we are guilty of some of the charges made against us by our enemies; but if not, then we certainly are guiltless; for they are the principles we advocate, and through the observance of which the unity has been obtained that is so dreaded.

These principles are not original with us. They have existed for ages. Neither are we the originators of the idea of being led and taught by a prophet. True, it is something not recognized as a part of modern orthodoxy, but we can not help that; and whether it is orthodox or heterodox in the opinion of the world, is a matter of but little moment to us, so long as it is acknowledged by the Almighty. We know that according to the Scriptures, it was always a characteristic of the Church of God; and it is plainly manifest that this was the mode which He generally chose to make His mind and will known to the people. And it is worthy of notice, that whenever they did make their appearance among the children of men, they were treated precisely similar to the Mormons now—a-days, and were considered traitors, men who indulged in evil designs against the governments under which they lived, and consequently were everywhere spoken evil against.

A New Translation of the Bible.

We learn there is a movement on foot in the East to make a new version of the Scriptures. This is not the first attempt of this kind that has been made within the last few years. Various scholars have attempted to give a more correct translation than that made by King James. The peculiarity, however, in this movement, which distinguishes it from enterprises of a similar kind, is, that it is to be done under the supervision of the American Bible Union, a society composed of different sects.

It is said the idea was first suggested by the Baptists, who imagined, that in the rendering of the words and passages having reference to baptism, the translators of King James were influenced by the usages of the Church of England, to which they belonged. Among the friends and supporters of this movement, as well as the scholars engaged in the labor, are found members of all the principal Protestant sects.

The method proposed to effect the translation is, for a large number of scholars to be employed, who are to translate under the supervision of the association which supplies the funds, the association, of course, deciding (by vote of the majority, we suppose) as to the correctness or incorrectness of the translation! This arrangement will, no doubt, give rise to some very interesting discussions as to the rendering of particular passages; of course, the promiscuity of particular points will depend upon the interpretation of the sect numbering the most members in the association. If the Book should have to pass through a few more such revisions, it is exceedingly probable that the writers themselves, if they were to return, would be unable to recognize their own writings.

The necessity of a correct translation of the Bible is apparent to every thinking, scripture believing man; but who is to do it? Shall uninspired men, men who say that the gift through which the Bible was written is no longer in existence or enjoyed by man? King James' translation is a specimen of what man can do apart from the light of revelation; and it is vain to expect a version really reliable in every particular except through this principle. It is the spirit the ancients possessed when they wrote, and it is the only spirit through which man can arrive at correct ideas in relation to the things of God.

Before they commence, we should advise the association to seek the aid of the Spirit enjoyed by the writers of the Scriptures, or their time and means will be uselessly expended. If they do not obtain it, the new translation, when it is finished—if it should be more perfect than the one now in use—will only increase their present difficulties, as the present contains more truth than they can be persuaded to believe in.

All those who have subscribed, or who may wish to subscribe for the Mormon paper published in New York by Elder John Taylor, will do well to remember that the volume is now nearly complete; and if they wish to preserve the file complete, they had better hand in their orders soon. This will also apply to the DESERT NEWS, published in Great Salt Lake City, and the MILLENNIAL STAR, published in Liverpool, England.

Exalted Travelling.

PROFESSOR WILSON, the Aeronaut, in a communication to the Chronicle, advocates the practicability of crossing the Sierra Nevada mountains with a balloon; and states his intention of trying it as soon as he can get means. He feels confident that a voyage over the mountains will not be attended with any more real danger than by the present mode of transit. Hear what he says on the subject:

"I am perfectly convinced, by the study of, and experience in the science of aerostatics, that a constant and regular current of air is blowing at all times from west to east, with a velocity of from thirty to sixty, and even ninety miles per hour, according to its height from the earth. Balloons can be constructed of either silk or muslin of any required size, that will hold gas for weeks, months, and even for years. An aerostat one hundred feet in diameter, will give an ascending power of thirty-three thousand pounds, which is amply sufficient to carry one hundred passengers with every thing safe and comfortable. Wm. D. Banister, on the 17th of June, 1853, on his first and only ascension, went three hundred and sixty miles in four hours, or from Adrian, Michigan, to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, ninety miles per hour, while in this eastern current, which Wise, the great American aeronaut calls the "solar current."

We hope the Professor will be successful, as we feel anxious to see some mode substituted for the present slow and tiresome one of crossing the mountains and plains; and as there is but little prospect at present of the railroad being soon finished, the sooner it is put in operation the better. On the eastern plains this season, it is expected that some of the poor among the Mormon emigration to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, will form a hand cart company, and make the trip in that way, to avoid the enormous expense and loss consequent upon a train of horses, mules or oxen. We think it altogether likely, however, that if Prof. Wilson's project is practicable, that the hand carts will soon be discarded and balloons substituted. They will then fly like doves to their windows in reality. When we return again we shall go in a few shares for the balloon.

Up to the time of going to press (11 o'clock A. M.) no news had been received of the mail steamship now due, the *John L. Stephens*. She is out twenty-five days to-day.

The Utah Mail.

ALL the papers we have received for the last few months from Utah contain serious complaints against the present mail arrangements between this city and Great Salt Lake. Every mail they have received lately has been about sixty days on the way. Now that the eastern route is blocked up by the snow, preventing the regular transmission of the mail from the East, this irregularity is severely felt, and is a source of constant annoyance, as they have to depend on this route entirely for all news from the outer world. We think that some steps should be taken by the Department at Washington to remedy these evils, and to place the inhabitants of Utah on something like an equality with the rest of the world. Under the present mail arrangements the Utah people know about as much of the news of the day as if they were living in Patagonia; it is true they get it, if the mail don't miscarry, but it is so stale by the time it reaches them that its interest is half gone. A semi-monthly mail at least, ought to be established; this would give them a better chance to keep pace with the outside civilization, and might be the means of dissipating some of the darkness that is said to bedevil their understandings. Until this is effected, however, we think the present irregularity might be remedied by an alteration being made in the time of the departure of the mail from San Bernardino.

According to the present schedule the mail carriers are obliged to leave San Bernardino on the 2nd or 3rd of each month, as their contract binds them to deliver the mail in Great Salt Lake City by the 28th. This prevents them from effecting a junction with the coast steamers which carries the mail from the city to San Pedro, her trips being arranged as much as possible, to connect with the Atlantic mail steamers.

Before the late change was made in the departure of the steamers from New York, the transmission of the mail from this city to Great Salt Lake City, seldom occupied more than thirty days; the coast steamer arriving as a general thing sufficiently early at San Pedro, to admit of its reaching San Bernardino before the mail left for Utah. We are of the opinion that if a similar alteration was made in the time of departure from San Bernardino to that made in this city, and in New York—that is, leave on the 5th of each month, instead of the 1st, as at present—the detention might to some extent be remedied. One thing that has made the matter worse this winter, has been the irregularity in the sailing of the southern steamer, her trips being made semi-monthly instead of weekly, as formerly.

News from Elders.

THROUGH the kindness of Bro. Hotchkiss we have been favored with the perusal of a letter from Elders Stuart and Shearman, written at Cold Springs, from which we make the following extracts:

"Since we saw you we have been greatly blessed, and have the pleasure of knowing that we have been the means of convincing some of the truth, and of sowing seed, which, we trust, will yet bring forth fruit. We have raised quite a stir throughout the country. We assure you, considering we are but beginners. We have been for nearly two weeks about Coloma, and have been several who are convinced of the truth about here."

We expect to go from here to Mad, and Diamond Springs, and about Placerville, Georgetown &c., &c. Since we saw you we preached in Auburn, in the Court House, and were invited to come again. We also obtained the Court House to speak in at Coloma. We believe there is yet a good work to be done in California if the right kind of men can be sent."

Please to give our kindest regards to all the brethren and sisters individually, and with love to your self, believe us to be your brethren in the gospel.

DAVID M. STUART.

WM. H. SHEARMAN.

We hope the Elders will not fail to correspond frequently, and keep us posted up in their movements.—[En.]

THE WORK IN EUROPE.—The arrival of the steamship *Golden Gate* brings us late intelligence from the United States and Europe. We have received the "Millennial Star" of the 12th, and "The Mormon" of the 19th ult. From the "Star" we learn that the work of the Lord is rolling steadily forward in the various countries in Europe where the Elders of the Church are laboring. It is expected that a number of the Elders, who have been for some time laboring in Great Britain and on the Continent, will return home to Utah this season, and their places be filled by those who have recently arrived there from the Valleys.

The business of the emigration in Liverpool, England, is progressing with its wonted regularity and dispatch, and, from the indications, we should think the emigration this season will be a heavy one.

OUR Agents will please forward us the names of subscribers as soon as possible, that we may have an idea of the number of copies needed, and regulate our issue accordingly. We have forwarded them several copies each to hand to a few of their subscribers, and as specimen copies.

WE understand that several companies have left San Bernardino lately for Great Salt Lake Valley, composed of returning missionaries, and others who are emigrating thither. Elders P. B. Lewis, E. Green and J. S. Woodbury, were intending to start on last Monday. Gen. Chas. C. Rich intends to leave for Utah with a company on the first of April. We wish the brethren a safe and speedy passage across the plains to their mountain home.

EMIGRATION TO UTAH.—The ship *Emerald Isle* having on board a company of 346 Saints, under the Presidency of Elders P. C. Merrill, Frome and Stenhouse, arrived at New York on the 29th of December on their route to Utah. They had experienced a tolerably quick and prosperous passage over the sea; there had been three marriages, and two deaths on board, and two births soon after their landing.

THE "WESTERN STANDARD." We have received a copy of this Mormon weekly paper, published at San Francisco. In beauty of typographical appearance it is unsurpassed by any other weekly paper in the State, and it is, apparently, edited with considerable ability.—*Sac. State Journal*.

We accept the above as quite a compliment, Mr. Journal, as we are of the opinion that California is unequalled by any State in the Union in the typographical finish of their newspapers.

THE STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.—The arrangement between the Nicaragua Company and the Pacific Steamship Company we understand to be substantially this: The Nicaragua Company is to sell for a fixed sum all their ships, coal, and other material on the Pacific to the Steamship Company, payable part in cash and part at future dates. The Nicaragua Company will buy one or two ships for the Atlantic service, including the *George Law*, from the Mail Company on this side. The Pacific Company will then run boats weekly to San Juan and Panama alternately; and the Nicaragua Company in like manner to San Juan and Aspinwall.

The business of the Nicaragua Company at San Francisco is to be transacted by the Pacific Company without charge. This is a saving, we understand, of about \$75,000 per annum. The gross receipts of both routes for passage and specie are to be divided—two-thirds to the Pacific Company and one-third to the Nicaragua Company. The rates of passage, we believe are to be \$100 in the steerage and \$350 in the first cabin. There is also an arrangement in regard to freight equally advantageous to the Transit Company. All runners are to be done away with, and a stringent economy introduced into every department by lopping off all unnecessary expenses. The estimate of receipts, made on the basis of last year's business between here and San Francisco, gives the Nicaragua Company over two and a quarter millions per annum, which would leave a net dividend fund of 10 to 12 per cent. upon par.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

We learn from the Chronicle, that the agents of the P. M. S. S. Company in this city have received no notification of this arrangement.

Correspondence.

Tolerance—Is True Politeness.

Every denial of, or interference with, the personal freedom or absolute rights of another, is a violation of good manners. He who presumes to censure me for my religious belief, or want of belief, who makes it a matter of criticism or reproach, that I am a Theist or Atheist, Trinitarian, or Unitarian, Protestant or Catholic, Pagan or Christian, Mahomedan or Mormon, is guilty of rudeness and insult. If any of these modes of belief make me intolerant or obtrusive, he may resent such intolerance and repel such intrusion. But the basis of all true politeness and social enjoyment, is the mutual tolerance of personal rights. And every one who wishes to see the world anything but a scene of conflict, and a prison-house, must be willing to give this tolerance themselves and to demand it of all others. Admirable was the answer of a friend of mine to some one who came to him with a complaint of what he thought the improper conduct of a neighbor, "I may not approve this man's conduct," he said, "but I would shoulder a musket to-morrow to defend his right to do as he pleases in a matter that injures no one but himself, and in no way upon one's rights and privileges but his own."—[S. F. Eve. Journal, Dec. 22, 1856.]

Mr. Editor: I do not know the name of the author of the foregoing extract, but I do know that I am willing to endorse the sentiments that he has therein expressed. Although, if all professors of religion, were to be judged by such a standard of etiquette, I am fearful that many would be found sadly wanting, in what constitutes the courteous and refined gentleman or lady.

Nevertheless, such a standard ought to be set up, and upon its graceful folds, should be inscribed in letters of living light, this old motto:—

"Immodest words, admit but this defence,—

"The want of decency, is want of sense."

And let the people one and all honor and maintain it. Then and not till then, may we talk of beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.

Very few individuals will make a continual sacrifice to carry out a theory that they know, or even believe, there is a possibility of being wrong. And the individual that is deceived deserves pity, not reproach—tenderness rather than severity. He that would abuse a blind man because he could not see, or a delirious one because he pretended to see too much—would be looked upon as an unfeeling monster, and would deserve to be treated as such. And is it any less brutal to abuse the mentally blind, or the enthusiastically delirious? Does reproach and abuse prove anything? Did it ever convince an enthusiast or fanatic of his error? No. If it cannot correct the follies of the deluded, what effect may it be supposed to have upon opinions that are founded on facts, and built up in the most philosophical and logical order?

Experience proves, that abuse heaped upon an impostor, becomes his honor, and his most attractive ornament. And many kind hearted, charitable men and women, will sympathize in his persecution, and adopt his sentiment for no other reason than to share with him the abuse he receives. Therefore, while the spirit of intolerance prevents no folly, and corrects no error, it creates both. It destroys all social enjoyment, makes the world a pandemonium, and its ultimate result is to build up what it attempts to pull down, to make alive what it attempts to kill, and to expose and scatter abroad, what it attempts to cover up and circumscribe; while the truth or the falsehood—the right or the wrong, the good or the evil, in controversy, not unfrequently remains entirely unknown to both parties.

Whereas, courteous inquiring into, and an unprejudiced examination of a matter, qualifies one to render an impartial judgment concerning it; and an honest opinion is always respectfully received, by all right minded men and women, notwithstanding that opinion may be directly opposed to their own. No social enjoyment is lost thereby or bitter feeling engendered, while truth will most likely be developed and disseminated, and all will be benefited. No one can deny, that as many people have been deceived by rejecting the truth, as there have been in believing a falsehood; and he who would have his faults lean on virtue's side, would be quite modest in denying a statement made by a number of unimpeachable witnesses; although his judgment may reject their testimony, common decency requires him to prove them to be false witnesses, before he declares them to be impostors.

Therefore, nothing is gained and much is lost by the rude, vulgar habit of making a man's religious opinions, a cause of reproach and abuse. So long as man violates no law, let him be considered innocent; and if he violates a law, let that law alone judge him.

PARLO.

Account of the late Earthquake at Jeddah.

WE make the following extracts from a letter written by H. H. Doty, to the Editors of the *Atlas*, which contains some items not heretofore published:

While I was at Simoda, an official account of the awful calamity was proclaimed by the government of Simoda (90 miles distant from Jeddah) to the people. On the 7th of December, all the temples of Simoda were closed at 12 o'clock, when the priests formed a procession at the Government Building, and proceeded to the Quay, where they made offerings to their gods, the fury of whose wrath they had experienced; and whose anger they desired to appease. No official information of it had been declared at Hakodadi (600 miles distant), when we left, though full particulars of it had been received.

The following account of the earthquake I received from the Japanese interpreter, who, I do not believe, exaggerated the accounts:

On the 11th November, at 9 hours 45 minutes, P. M., a shock was experienced, which aroused the inhabitants, who rushed into the streets. About three minutes subsequently, another shock occurred, which oscillated the earth north-east and south-west—the crash of falling buildings was heard throughout the city, fire broke out in thirty different places, covering an extent of seven or fourteen miles square. Another shock (which threw every body off their feet), succeeded, when the earth opened in the north-east part of the city, and closed over many thousand houses and inhabitants. The exact number of inhabitants, temples and dwellings, had not been ascertained by government, but there had been already shown by the district records of the city, that (30,800) thirty thousand eight hundred people, five hundred Buddhist and Shinto temples, one hundred and one thousand dwellings and stores, were destroyed; and it was thought when all the districts made their returns, these numbers would be greatly increased.

The shocks were so severe at Simoda, that many buildings were slightly damaged, and the people could not keep on their feet. As near as I could learn, the shock extended in a north-east and south-west

direction. The vessel, the *San Jose*, at the entrance of the bay of Jeddah, 30 miles distant from the city, sailed on the 10th of the month, and was more active than at any time during my residence in Japan last year.

City Items.

Recovery of the Books of Adams & Co.

On Wednesday morning some men living at North Beach, picked up a bag containing two large books, which they noticed floating in the Bay. They looked into the books and found nothing that they understood. They asked a Mr. Bennett to look at the books, and he saw that they were books kept by Adams & Co., and he told them of that fact. Bennett went off and gave information to Mr. King of Wm., through whose exertions, joined with those of Marshall North, Capt. Mc. Donald, and officer Stevenson the books were after considerable difficulty secured. They were found by Marshall North concealed in a bed, between two mattresses. When the men became aware that they were Adams & Co.'s books, they demanded \$30,000 for their delivery, but finally dropped to \$1000; before the latter sum was paid over, however, the books were in the hands of the officers.

The books had evidently been in the water for a long time, and the binding was only composed of wet pieces of pasteboard and leather, no two of which would hang together. One of these books is the general ledger of Adams & Co., and the other is their cash book. A number of leaves have been torn from the ledger, but their importance, which may be discovered or guessed at from the index, is not yet known. From the cash book three leaves are missing, which contained the receipts and expenditures of the 23d and 24th of Feb. 1855. Both these books were delivered to A. A. Cohen, at the time of his appointment as Receiver in the case of Adams & Co., or, if they were not, he acted in a very singular manner in not speaking of their absence.

ANOTHER FILLIBUSTER EXPEDITION.—A number of restless characters are now said to be organizing an expedition in this city, the object of which is the conquest and revolutionizing of the departments of Tabasco and Chiapas, in Southern Mexico. These departments include the famous Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and it is supposed that a descent upon this thinly inhabited and unprotected region, during the existing political dissensions of Mexico, would render the country an easy prey to the invaders. Of what use the country could prove to the expeditionists it is difficult to conceive. But in these days of adventure and extension, there seem to be no limits to the "manifest destiny" ideas of Californians.—Alta.

SHOOTING.—A difficulty occurred on Wednesday, at the corner of Stockton and Union streets, between the proprietor of a bakery, named Bond, and two of his employees. Bond discharged a pistol at one of his opponents, but happily without effect.

THE USE OF CHLOROFORM.—An attempt was made last Sunday night on one of the wharves, by two suspicious looking fellows, to put a policeman to sleep by the use of Chloroform. One of them engaged in conversation with him, and becoming very earnest in his talk, put his face near to the officer's. The officer soon began to feel drowsy, and before he was aware of it, was asleep. He said he had no control over himself, and could not prevent the sleep that came upon him. Two officers came along and probably prevented the perpetration of a heinous crime.

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION.—At the primary election held on Wednesday in this city for the purpose of choosing delegates to the State Convention to be held at Sacramento on the 5th day of March next, the following candidates were elected:

First Ward—Frank Tilford, Charles Wilson, Capt. G. Simpson, M. O'Brien, M. Gaffney.

Second Ward—Chas. Carter, P. S. O'Reilly, Jas. M. Wilson, Cor. Murphy, B. O'Rourke.

Third Ward—N. S. Pettit, David McCasby, John H. Shepherd.

Fourth Ward—R. E. Woods, E. R. Carpenter, Chas. P. Duane.

Fifth Ward—E. B. Vreeland, J. E. Nuttman, J. B. Shaeffer.

Sixth Ward—Jas. Gallagher, Hall McAllister, John Curry, Pat. Martin.

Seventh Ward—Matthew Crooks, J. P. Hicky, Edward Pacey, Anthony Ludlum.

Eighth Ward—M. Hayes, J. Whalen, R. C. Page, A. P. Crittenden, John J. Hoff, Saml. Marx.

After the close of the polls at the second ward, a fight grew out of a dispute between some of the electioneers, which resulted in the stabbing of a man in the back part of the neck. Two men by the names of Durkin and McDonald, were arrested for the disturbance, but were subsequently released. We did not learn the name of the injured man. He was not seriously wounded. Later in the evening, a fight occurred in the sixth ward, in which James Gallagher, one of the delegates elected, was engaged, and a man named James White, both of whom were arrested.

BRUTAL TREATMENT OF A CHINESEMAN.—About one o'clock on Wednesday morning, an old Chinaman was badly beaten at the corner of Sacramento and Dupont streets. His cries attracted the attention of a policeman, who, on going to the point, was told by the Celestial that James Hennessy and James Curry had beaten him. The officer could not arrest them because Chinese testimony does not suffice to convict a "white" man in a court in California law.—S. F. Chron.

A SINGULAR CASE.—A man who had been in good health, and had only a moderate appetite for some time past, was delivered, by the course of nature and without the use of any medicine, on Wednesday of a tapeworm thirty-three feet long.

ROBBERY.—On Monday night a Chinaman robbed the house of a gentleman on Montgomery street, near Pacific. The Celestial, who had been a cook in the house, managed to obtain \$150 in coin, and a number of valuable articles of jewelry. He ransacked a trunk under a bed in which the proprietor was sleeping. His wife heard the burglar, but did not wake her husband for fear he would be shot.

DEPARTURE OF MR. AND MRS. STARK.—Mr. and Mrs. James Stark left San Francisco on Monday Feb. 25th, in the barque *Jane A. Falkenberg*, on a professional tour to Australia. From Australia they intend going to Europe, and will probably be absent from California about two or three years.

News from the Interior.

SHOOTING AT NEVADA.—By a telegraphic dispatch to the *Union* from Nevada we learn that a man named James L. Davis was shot on Sat. evening Feb. 28, at about 8 o'clock, by a man named Solomon Flinders. Flinders was about going to bed in his cabin, when Davis entered, stating that it was his intention to kill him, and at the same time drew his pistol and attempted to fire it. The pistol being out of order, the attempt proved unsuccessful, whereupon Flinders drew his pistol and shot Davis, and he died in about four hours afterwards.

MINING IN NEVADA COUNTY.—From almost every section of Nevada county, says the *Democrat*, more or less complaint is heard of a want of sufficient water to carry on mining operations to advantage. On the Ridge, between the South and Middle Yuba, even in the most favored localities, miners are but partially supplied. At French Corral, San Juan, Badger Hill, and Montezuma, there is a moderate supply of water from Shady Creek and Grizzly ditches, and the miners are doing remarkably well for the length of time they can work. At points above, little or no water can be obtained, in consequence of the snow and freezing weather. A fine ditch is now being constructed by Jennings & Co., from the Middle Yuba, which, when completed, will, in connection with the Grizzly Ditch, furnish water the year round at Wisconsin Hill, Setland's and other places. Improvements are also being made to bring in larger supplies of water at Badger Hill and Patterson. San Juan has become a brisk business town and is rapidly improving. Messrs. Burton & Co., have recently opened some very rich diggings at Wolsey's Flat, which promise to be of immense value.

PANTHER KILLED.—The San Joaquin Republican says:

On Wednesday last, Mr. John H. Myers, who resides in the vicinity of Byrne's Ferry, on the Stanislaus, while out in search of stock, and accompanied by four dogs, came across a large panther, which took to a tree. Mr. M., not being armed, thoughtlessly picked up a stone and threw it at the animal, which in turn sprang at him from the tree. He narrowly escaped injury, the animal alighting only one foot from where he stood. The dogs instantly pitched into his pantherhood, but after the first brush all but one were out and gone. The dog remained fastened on the jaw of the panther and stuck to it until Mr. Myers was able to dispatch it with a large stone. The faithful dog suffered terribly in the encounter, being almost torn to pieces. Mr. M. says that his first impulse was to run when the panther alighted so near him, but he did not like to desert the dog after exhibiting so much courage in his master's defence. The panther measured eight feet from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail.

THE WEATHER AND PASTURES AT MONTEREY. For the last week the weather has been extremely hot and dry at mid-day, the evenings cool and pleasant. The air is so attenuated that a gun fired off can be heard at double the ordinary distance. On the first four days of the week the thermometer stood at 74 degrees in shade. The ground has become as hard and baked as a brick, and all kinds of wood begin to shrink and crack. From the excessive heat and drought of the last ten days, the grass has become so checked in growth and sustenance that the cattle of our vicinity are becoming as poor and lean as skeletons.—Monterey Sentinel.

ALMOST A LYNCHING.—On the 23d February, a man who had been suspected of stealing for some time past, from the miners near the Tower House was caught and taken to the Tower House. A jury of miners was empaneled, and the guilt fairly established upon him by a miners' jury's verdict. The verdict was, that the persons from whom he had stolen, three in number, should each give him four lashes with a piece of rope. When the first man went in to inflict his portion of the punishment, the thief begged so piteously, that he forgave him his part of the wrong, and the other two followed

the example of the first, so he was released, and made some of the fastest tracks out of that neighborhood that had been made in those diggings for many a day.

FATAL AFFRAY IN BUTTE COUNTY.—The *Marysville Express* says that a difficulty occurred last Monday morning about two o'clock, at Hansonville, Butte county, between Dr. Webster and a man named Chris, a shoemaker, about five dollars, in a game of poker. The Doctor accused Chris of having five dollars of his money, when he denied and left for his cabin—about one hundred yards off; the Doctor went over to Hanson's store, and waked up the clerk and got a pistol from him, and followed Chris over to his cabin, where it appears he shot Chris in the knee, and Chris shot the Doctor with a double-barrel shot gun—both loads penetrating his left side. Chris then started, not knowing he was shot, over to Bidwell, to give himself up, but soon gave out and returned. As the stage which brought the news to Marysville passed, the Doctor was dying, and the wound in Chris' knee is of a very serious nature.

FROM THE PLAINS.—The *Los Angeles Star* says that it learns from a Mr. Clement Cox, who arrived at Los Angeles on the 13th February from the Mohave, that an attack was made by a party of the Mohave Indians, on a portion of A. C. Green's Surveying Company, near the Sink of the Mohave and north of the base line. The attack was made on February 5th, on three men—while at work sectionizing—by the names of R. S. Redmond, Hugh McGorry and John Keff, which resulted in the death of one of the parties (McGorry) and the wounding of Keff. Redmond is missing, and is supposed to have been killed by the Indians. The Indians were armed with bows and arrows and knives. No trouble had occurred previously with the Indians by any of the surveying party.

There had been no rain on the Desert but once during the winter, and feed was very poor.

MURDER AT SAN DIEGO.—On the night of February 8th, a soldier, named Jerry O'Sullivan, belonging to Co. F, 3d Art'y, stationed at the Mission, was found dead in the Mission Valley, about two miles from town, with his head horribly mutilated. The deceased started from town about eight o'clock with a fowling piece, which was found by his side broken into several pieces. He was discovered about eleven o'clock by a person passing by, with his brains stove in and quite dead, although his body was yet warm. He was about 30 years of age, and is said to have been a peaceable and quiet man. A reward of \$300 has been offered for the arrest of the murderer.

BIG LUMP.—A correspondent from Saw Mill Flat, says the *Shasta Republican*, 28d inst., informs us that Messrs. Booth & Allen took out of their claim a few days ago, a round lump of gold mixed with a very little quartz, weighing nearly thirty-five ounces. Their claim is some half a mile below Whiskeytown. On yesterday, they raised another piece weighing over four ounces. The claim of G. Farrington & Co., is paying them from forty to fifty dollars a day to the hand. The miners on Cedar Flat are doing well. Coyote Flat is paying better than ever.

EARTHQUAKES IN CALIFORNIA.—The Monterey Sentinel, in commenting on the recent earthquake at San Francisco, remarks that it had made its customary annual visit to San Francisco the same as it does to Monterey. Once a year there is a great shaking of that part of the earth's dry bones, which immediately binds California to the rest of her component parts. San Francisco Bay and the Los Angeles country would seem to be the great foci of our great earthquake system. The Mission near Los Angeles was called by Padre Junipero in 1788, in one of his manuscripts, "San Gabriel de los Temblores." At San Juan, Capistrano and Santa Inez Missions in September 1812, a severe shock of earthquake prostrated the church buildings of those establishments, and many persons lost their lives in the first named; the church being full of people at the time. The old tradition of the Indians is, that the Bay of San Francisco was formed during a terrible earthquake. The earthquake of Friday morning done no injury in Monterey; many persons did not even feel it. The weather was perfectly calm, and the night clear and starry.

CLIMATES CONTRASTED.—At Sebastopol on the night of December 18th, the thermometer fell several degrees below zero, a degree of cold in the Crimea, in latitude 45, and nearly surrounded by water, which is very surprising, and which must be of very rare occurrence. In the vicinity of London, in latitude 51, the weather, during the week which ended on the 1st of Jan. was very mild, and the thermometer only once fell as low as the freezing point!

THREATENED INDIAN HOSTILITIES NEAR COLUMBIA.—During the early part of last week, says the *Columbia Gazette*, a miner while out on a hunting excursion, between French Camp, in Calaveras county, and Pine Log, accidentally shot an Indian, mistaking him for an animal. The Indian, it appears, doubting the object of the hunter, dodged behind some bushes, and the hunter, observing the dodging object, let fly, striking the Walley in the breast. The sons of the forest soon gathered, and a very exciting council assembled. Runners were sent out, and the red men were seen coming in from different quarters, to a general gathering,

having arms in their hands. For a time the aspect of affairs was rather belligerent, and strong fears were entertained that open hostilities would take place and blood flow. Fearing a rupture, a messenger was sent over to Columbia for one of the dignitaries of the Walleys, who spoke English, and through him the accident was explained, and the red men appeased. The wounded Indian has a hole through him below the left shoulder, but is expected to recover. Every attention is paid to him.

FROM PUGET SOUND.

By the arrival of the schooner *W. T. Seaward*, we have received a copy of the *Puget Sound Courier*, of Feb. 8th. We publish news up to that date, on Sunday morning, at which time, however, we received no papers. As we stated at that time, a deputation had arrived from the hostile Indians, apparently anxious for peace. There were seventeen Indians in all who came in, and among them Leechi and Kispap, the two chiefs who are considered the instigators and leaders of all the Indians who are in arms in Washington Territory.

Their professed object in coming upon the plains was to get a message to the commandant of the military forces at Fort Steilacoom, they wished to have a talk for peace. At Mr. McCloud's house they stopped several hours. Leechi talked very hard against Gov. Stevens, and accused him of having deceived them in the treaty. He said he would like to have two pieces of paper taken, on one of which should be written the wrong done by the Indians, and on the other the wrong the whites had inflicted on them. "Let these two papers," said he, "be sent to the great Chief, and let him decide who was most to blame, the Indian who has had his lands taken from him, or the white man who has deceived him."

Mr. John Swan, sub-Indian agent, had been dispatched to have a talk with the chiefs.

A WHITE BOY RETURNED.—The *Courier* says, that one of the war party of the Niquallies came to Fort Steilacoom and brought with him a white boy named King, whom they had captured at the White River massacre. He recollects distinctly about his father's house being burned, he saw his parents killed, and was himself tied in the woods for several hours. He is said to be a very interesting child.—[S. F. Alta.]

By the bark *Madonna*, which arrived here on Thursday night from Port Madison, W. T., we have news from Puget Sound to 21st February. The friendly Indian chief, Pat Cannon, has had a fight with the Clickitaks. He left his camp on Snow Gully River, and fell in with five of the Clickitak Indians, and took them prisoners. They refused to answer his questions, so he beheaded two of them, and sent their heads into Seattle. The remaining three, to save their lives, agreed to give him all the information they could. Cannon took them along as guides. He then, with one hundred warriors, soon overtook a large body of the enemy, surprised and routed them, and killed a great many. He had four of his men killed. He himself was wounded.

Later from the North.

INDIAN HOSTILITIES AT THE MOUTH OF ROGUE RIVER.

We copy the following from an extra of the *Crescent City Herald*, dated February 25:

From F. H. Pratt, Esq., a resident at the mouth of Rogue river, who arrived last night in the schooner *Gold Beach*, we receive the startling news that the Indians in that district have united with a party of the hostile Indians above, and commenced a war of extermination against the white settlers.

The station at Big Bend, some fifteen miles up the river, having been abandoned several weeks previous, the Indians made a sudden attack on Saturday morning, Feb. 23d, upon the farms, about four miles above the mouth, where some ten or twelve men of Capt. Poland's Company of Volunteers were encamped, the remainder of the Company being absent, attending a ball on the 23d, at the mouth of Rogue River. The fight is stated to have lasted nearly the whole of Saturday, and but few of the whites escaped to tell the story—the farmers were all killed. It is supposed there are now about 300 hostile Indians in the field, including those from Grave and Galaisse Creeks and Big Meadows. They are led by a Canada Indian named Enos, who was formerly a favorite guide for Col. Fremont in his expeditions.

Here follows a list of about twenty-five names of persons killed.

The inhabitants at the mouth of Rogue River have all moved to the north side of the river, where formerly, under the apprehension of a sudden attack, a fort had been erected; they number about one hundred and thirty men, having less than a hundred guns amongst them.

The schooner *Gold Beach* left yesterday (Sunday) morning, at half-past five o'clock, and it is supposed that a fight commenced at daylight, as there was a party going to cross to the south side of the river, where they expected to find the whole body of Indians. At sunrise every thing on the south side was in flames. The stores of Coburn & Warwick, F. H. Pratt, and W. A. Upton were probably all destroyed. A boat was dispatched as early as Saturday evening to Port Orford to inform Major Reynolds,

in command of that post, of the occurrences.

Later Still.

The schooner *Ellen* arrived at this port, (San Francisco), at 4 o'clock, p. m., yesterday, (Friday), and brings news confirmatory of the above report. The north side has since been destroyed. The fort is still safe with two weeks' provisions.

RATIONALE OF THE EARTHQUAKE.—An exchange characterizes the recent earthquake in this city, as an unsuccessful attempt, on the part of Nature, to settle land titles here.

Mrs. PARTINGTON says that a gentleman laughed so heartily she feared he had burst his vascular vein.

Latter-Day Saints' Publications.

THE DESERT NEWS, a quarto of eight pages, published weekly in Great Salt Lake City, is the Organ of the Church in Utah, and is edited by the Hon. Albert Carrington. There is a very large amount of most excellent reading matter in the columns of the "News." The history of Joseph Smith—the discourses of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve, and other items of Utah news, with the large amount of choice selections, published in this paper, make it invaluable to all interested in the Kingdom of God. We expect to be able hereafter to furnish the "D. N." to all who may wish to subscribe. Terms of Subscription:—\$6 per annum.

THE MORNING, a weekly paper published in New York City, by Elder John Taylor, one of the Twelve Apostles, can be had by applying at this Office. We can not recommend this paper too highly to the Saints, and we are sure that \$2.50—the price of subscription including postage—will be very profitably spent in its purchase. The well known ability of the Editor, Elder John Taylor, is a sufficient guarantee for the style of its reading matter, and requires no eulogium from us to recommend it to the Saints.

We also receive the MILLENNIAL STAR every Mail from Europe, and have a few copies of the seventeenth volume for sale. The "Star" is edited and published by Elder Franklin D. Richards, one of the Twelve Apostles, and contains, besides a variety of original articles from the masterly pen of the Editor, all the news of interest connected with the Missions of the Church in Europe, with excellent expositions of doctrine from the pens of the different Elders. The price of the "Star" in this country, including American and English postage, (which is two cents on each number in both countries), is \$3.25.

PROSPECTUS

OF THE WESTERN STANDARD.

It is our intention to publish a Weekly Newspaper bearing the above title, to be devoted to the interests of the Church of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS—to be an exponent of its doctrines, and a medium through which the public can derive correct information in relation to its objects and progress. Its columns will also contain items of general intelligence and the current news of the day, both foreign and domestic, which from our position, situated in the Queen City of the Pacific, we will be able to obtain at the earliest dates and in ample detail.

It will be our aim to make THE WESTERN STANDARD an interesting and instructive sheet; and, as its columns will be enriched by the correspondence of the Elders of the Church, who are laboring in different portions of the Earth, and by choice selections from the leading papers of the United States and Great Britain, we trust it will be satisfactory to our subscribers.

To the Saints the announcement that another publication is being issued, under the sanction of the First Presidency of the Church, that will be found on the side of truth, and heralding it forth, will be received with pleasure, and will, no doubt, meet with their hearty co-operation and support.

The regular transmission of the Mail from San Francisco to Great Salt Lake City, by way of San Bernardino and the Southern Branch of Utah, will be advantageous to the subscribers of THE W. S. in those places, as they will obtain news much earlier than heretofore.

As a medium of advertising, the columns of THE W. S. present unusual facilities to business men and general dealers, as it will be extensively circulated among the Emigrating portion of our community.

TERMS. W. S. will be issued every Saturday. Office—No. 115 1/2 Montgomery Street.

THE following persons will please act as Agents for THE WESTERN STANDARD.

Sacramento City	Hon. Jefferson Hunt
Salmon Falls	Thomas Orr
Throughout the Mines	(David M. Stuart, and
Napa City	Wm. H. Shearman
Centerville, Alameda Co.	Joseph Mott
Mission San Jose, do.	Eachus Cheney
Union City, do.	J. M. Horner
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Mill Creek	Orson Hyde
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Union	Robt. Gardner
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Bingham's Ward	John Stoker
South Weber	A. B. Cherry
East Weber	James Leitch
North Ogden Ward	Samuel Henderson
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Aaron Johnson	A. Wardworth
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Franklin D. Richards	George Hancock
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The various Elders laboring in the States will please act as Agents for THE WESTERN STANDARD, and forward names, subscriptions, &c., to this Office.

San Francisco Price Current.

COMBINED WEEKLY.

Bread—			
Flour, in barrels, per lb	7	—	10
Crackers, in (do)	7	—	10
Meat and Bones—			
Men's Kip Boots, 18 inch	22	75	25
do do 12	17	50	00
do Wax do 18	2	50	00
do do 12	1	25	45
do Grain Sewed Long Leg Boots	3	50	00
do Fine Calf Stitched	6	00	50
do do Sewed	4	50	00
Boy's Kip Pegged Boots	1	00	15
do Calf do	3	00	25
Women's Fine Lasting Gaiters	1	50	00
do Calf Pegged Lace Boots	1	00	25
do do Sewed	1	12	47
Clothing—			
Fancy and Plain Satinets,			
lined, per pair	1	75	2 50
Fancy Cashmere, per pair	3	—	4 00
Fine Clothing, fashionable	—	—	about cost
Hickory Shirts	4	50	4 50
Fancy Calico	4	—	5
White Cotton do, linen bosoms	9	—	12
Blue flannel overshirts, of good	12	—	12
quality, per doz.	12	—	12 50
Marine Undergarment, new, per doz	30	—	20
Wool Socks, country knit, per doz.	4	—	6
Cigars—			
Regalia, in 110 boxes true Havana	50	—	80
Imitation do best	15	—	20
Choice brands, Havana, London and	30	—	60
others	30	—	60
Coffee—			
Java, green, per lb	—	—	14
Manilla	—	—	28
Rio	—	—	11 1/2
Cardage—			
Manilla, American made	—	—	17
Cotton Twine	—	—	25
Flax and Hemp Twine	—	—	12
Cider—			
Champagne Cider, qts	5	—	4
Candles—			
Sperm, per lb	—	—	45
Adamantine	—	—	30
Coal—			
Scotch	—	—	10
Oregon	—	—	12
COPPER, Sheeting, New, per lb	30	—	30
QUICKSILVER, per pintal	—	—	50
Dry Goods—			
SHIRTINGS & SHIRTINGS: Hyv Brn 4-4	—	—	7 1/2
DELLING: Heavy Brown 30 in	—	—	8
Richd. 25 in	—	—	10 1/2
Corru Draper, Nos. 1 to 5	—	—	24
Ravens 28 in	—	—	12
Ticking, medium, 30 in	—	—	10
Diaper, Scotch, 12 yard pieces med.	1	—	1 1/2
Pastur: Merrimack Blues	—	—	10
Rich Am., chints styles, fast colors	—	—	9
do French 4-4 do do	—	—	12 1/2
LUKES: Table damask, per yd	—	—	37 1/2
Sheetings, 10-4 to 12-4	—	—	65
Table Covers, 7-4 to 12-4	—	—	1 00
Carpeting, three	—	—	1 30
1 20	—	—	1
HOSIERY—			
White and Colored Cotton Hose, per doz	1	25	8
Wool Half Hose	—	—	2 75
do country knit	—	—	2 75
Drugs—			
Alum	—	—	8
Antitwoot, Sandwich Islands	—	—	8
Balsam Copavia	—	—	45
Castor Oil, No. 1, per gal.	2	—	2
Cream Tartar, pure	—	—	7
Epsom Salts	—	—	7
Gum Arabic, sorts	—	—	80
Magnesia	—	—	80
Oil Bergamot	—	—	8
Senna, India	—	—	8
Oil, Richdome, per lb	—	—	2
Cocoa, per lb	—	—	2
Sugar Lead	—	—	12 1/2
Fruit and Preserves—			
Apples, dried, in hb bbls	—	—	8
Peaches, An, dried, in kegs	—	—	20
Limbs, Zenz, per doz	—	—	17
Raisins, Bunch, per box	—	—	5
Almonds, Soft shelled	—	—	17
Ginger, preserved, per case	—	—	7
Second Fin Fruit, etc	—	—	2 1/2
Oysters	—	—	8 50
Sardines, hb boxes	—	—	4 87 1/2
Flour and Meal—			
Chill, fresh, per 200 lbs	8	—	8
California	8	—	10
Oregon	—	—	9
Corn Meal in bbls	5	—	6
Fish—			
Mackerel, No. 1, per hb bbl	7	—	8
Salmon, Oregon, pickled, per bbl	8	—	10
Cod, dry, per lb	—	—	10
Grain—			
Oregon Number yellow, per lb	—	—	8
Oats, California	—	—	8
Barley, do	—	—	8
Wheat, Oregon	—	—	8
Beans, Cal. white	—	—	8
GLASS, Aft. with ass. sines, less than cost and charges	—	—	87 1/2
Gunpowder—			
Swedish, Best, Hazard's	—	—	45
Hall & Sons English Rifle Powder	—	—	87 1/2
Iron—			
Scotch and English Pig, per ton	45	00	00
American do do	—	—	45
Oregon, No. 10 to 15	—	—	45
Lumber—			
Oregon Lumber	22	—	27
Eastern Lumber	45	—	60
Shingles, Redwood	—	—	45
Lathe, California	—	—	45
Leather, Oak tanned, per lb	—	—	25
Harness Leather	—	—	80
Calf skins, heavy, per lb	—	—	75
Sheep Skins, per doz	—	—	8 00
Limbs, Zenz, per doz	—	—	17
LIME, California, 1st quality	—	—	4
MOLASSES AND SYRUP	—	—	4
NAILS, Cut, assorted, per lb	—	—	4
Olive, Flagnoll, per doz	—	—	4
Lined, bottled	—	—	1 30
Sperm, Bleached	—	—	1
Whale, refined	—	—	1 00
Patient Medicines—			
Swedish, Best, Hazard's	—	—	45
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Swedish, Best, Hazard			

Poetry.

Imaginary Evils.

BY CHARLES SWAIN.

Let to-morrow take care of to-morrow;
Leave things of the future to fate;
What's the use to anticipate sorrow,
Life's troubles come never too late!
If to hope over much be an error,
Then one that the wise have preferred;
And how often have hearts been in terror,
Of evils that never occurred!

Have faith—and thy faith shall sustain thee—
Permit not suspicion and care
With invisible bonds to enchain thee,
But bear what God gives thee to bear.
By his spirit supported and gladdened;
Be not by "forebodings" deterred;
But think how oft hearts have been saddened
By fear of what never occurred!

Let to-morrow take care of to-morrow;
Short and dark as our life may appear,
We may make it still darker by sorrow—
Still shorter by folly and fear!
Half our troubles are half our invention;
And often from blessings conferred
Have we shrunk in the wild apprehension
Of evils—that never occurred!

Earthquakes and Internal Heats.

We make the following extracts from a letter of E. Merriam, on the subject of earthquakes, published in the National Intelligencer:

During the great earthquake at Chantabun, Siam, May 13, 1843, which was felt at the same moment in Valparaiso, South America, and throughout the province of Tuscany, in Europe, hairs, resembling human hairs, came out of the earth in the twinkling of an eye, during the earthquake—in the fields, in the highways, in the bazaars, in the market places.

On the 6th of February, of the same year, during an earthquake at Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, grubs, like cabbage grubs, fell from the snow clouds, and great flocks of robins followed the cloud and fed upon the grubs. These birds had never before been seen in that cold climate in winter.

It is now over one hundred years since the great earthquake at Lisbon, which destroyed sixty thousand people in six minutes; that earthquake was felt on all the then discovered continents of the globe. The great earthquake at Caracas, on the 25th of March, 1812, destroyed ten thousand persons in two minutes. But these earthquakes happened during religious festivals, as have also several other great earthquakes of which I have records.

With regard to the heat of the interior of the earth, I have some facts that have a bearing. The multitude of volcanoes found in various parts of the earth, except within the interior of the continent of Africa, come from ever-burning fires; but there are places beneath the earth's crust where heat is not only absent, but its opposite is present. In a paper addressed to me in 1845, by E. W. Newton, Esq., of Kanawha, Virginia, he says:

"In answer to the inquiries contained in your letter, which has been placed in our hands by the gentleman to whom it was addressed, we remark: There has been no misrepresentation in the newspapers in relation to the depth of the salt wells. Several of them are 1200 to 1610 feet. Mr. C. Reynolds assures us that his well is sixteen hundred and fifty feet deep. There is abundant evidence that there is no increase of temperature in the depth reached in any of the wells:

"First. The water that is driven or forced up from all the wells is very cold. At one of the depth of 1500 feet, and which is tubed 700 feet, so as to exclude all the water, fresh or salt, to that depth—and it is quite certain that all the water comes from the depth of 1500 feet, for at that depth the stream of salt water was struck—the water is also cold as the very coldest spring water, such as gushes out from the base of our mountains.

"Second. The workmen at the furnaces, in warm weather, are in the habit of filling jugs with river water, and immersing in the cisterns of salt water as it is thrown up. The water in the jugs soon becomes not quite so cold as ice water, but as cold as the coldest spring water.

"Third. The gas which comes from the lowest depths of the wells with the water, if not, according to the supposition expressed in your letter, from beneath the water, is as cold as a northern blast in winter. To be exposed to a moderate stream of this gas, in tubing the wells, is extremely disagreeable to the workmen. In the hottest days in summer it chills them through in a short time. These facts every body here considers conclusive that the temperature does not increase in proportion to the depth below the surface of the earth."

There was a fear expressed when the great reservoirs of gas were first reached at Kanawha that it might be ignited by lightning, and an explosion be the result; hence the remark referred to in my letter that the gas came from beneath the water. Nature has protected the gas from fire resulting from meteors of the clouds by placing it under water. On Green river, Kentucky, however, passengers became alarmed during low stages of water when the boat disturbs the sediment on the rock bottom of the river, during which carbonated hydrogen escapes in such abundance as to fill the air as to ignite from the fire in the furnaces under the boilers, if the furnace doors are left open.

At Kanawha the gas is conducted under the salt furnaces, and is burnt as fuel in salt boiling, the cinders I have specimens of having all the appearance of roots and fibres of vegetables. Underneath that surface is a natural manufactory of bituminous coal. The gas is condensed, and forms petroleum, and the petroleum crystallizes and forms coal. This is the way in which all the mineral coal is produced, and not, as is erroneously supposed, to have resulted from vegetation.

I have examined the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky to the extent of fifteen miles, and found all the dry apartments, avenues, &c., are of the same uniform, unvarying temperature of fifty-nine degrees of Fahrenheit throughout the year. These two localities I rely upon to sustain me in the conclusion that the increase of temperature in descending beneath the earth's crust is not universal. I am familiar with the temperatures and chemical conditions of almost all the deep salt wells in the United States.

In connection, with this, I must mention fire as a companion of other phenomena of nature. On ascending the white-face peak of the Adirondacks, a few years since, for the meteorological observation, I was stopped when half way up the mountain by the smoke of a forest fire near by, which had overtaken me. I descended. The fire soon reached the mountain, and before I left the vicinity this majestic height was wrapped in one vast mantle of flame—a magnificent covering. Every thing that was combustible was consumed, and even the thin covering of earth which supported vegetation on the vast rock surface was calcined. There was nothing of vegetable life left. Five years after, I again ascended the same mountain, and its whole surface was alive with a thick growth of blue-berry bushes, yielding such an abundance of delicious fruit that the people came there to gather it for the Montreal market. The germ was in the fire, or in the granite rock, from seed planted by God on the third day of the creative epoch and before the sun was placed in the firmament.

Loss of Life by the Wars.

We have seen it sometimes remarked, in reference to the loss of life in the Crimea, that certain battles were among the bloodiest ever fought, the sacrifice of life the greatest, &c. But such writers either forget, or certainly know very little about the terrible battles fought in the former times, and even of a comparatively recent date, and within the memory of persons living. Let us notice some of these.

At the battle of Arcole the Austrians lost, killed and wounded, 18,000 men; the French, 15,000.

At Hohenlinden the Austrian loss 14,000; the French, 9,000.

At Austerlitz, the Allies, out of 80,000 men, lost 30,000 in killed and wounded or prisoners; the French lost only (1) 12,000.

At Jena and Austerstadt, the Prussians lost 30,000 men, killed and wounded, and nearly as many prisoners, making nearly 60,000 in all; and the French 14,000 in killed and wounded.

At the terrific battle of Eylau, the Russians lost 25,000 in killed and wounded; and the French, 30,000.

At Friedland the Russian loss was 17,000, in killed and wounded—the French loss, 8,000. At Wagram the Austrians and French lost each 25,000 in all, in killed and wounded.

At Smolenski the French loss was 17,000 men—that of the Russians, 10,000.

At Borodino, which is said to have been "the most murderous and obstinately fought battle on record," the French lost in killed, wounded and prisoners, 50,000 men—the Russians about the same number, making in all 100,000 men in one battle!

At Lutzen the French loss was 18,000 men—the Allies, 15,000.

At Bautzen the French lost 25,000 men—the Allies, 15,000.

At Dresden, where the battle lasted two days, the Allies lost in killed, wounded and prisoners, 25,000 men; and the French, between 10,000 and 12,000.

At Leipzig, which lasted three days, Napoleon lost two Marshals, twenty Generals and about 60,000 men, in killed, wounded and prisoners—the Allies, 1,700 officers, and about 40,000 men—upwards of 100,000 men in all!

At Ligny, the Prussians lost 15,000 men, in killed, wounded and prisoners; the French 6,800. The battle of Trebbia lasted three days; and the French and Allies lost each about 12,000 men, or 24,000 in all.

Here we have battles, among which are some, compared to which those in the Crimea were but small engagements, great as they appear to us. Besides these were several others of minor importance to the foregoing, as to the loss of men, but large in the aggregate. There were those of the *Bridge of Lodi*, a most desperate contested fight—the famous battle of the *Nile*, a sea fight, in which Nelson lost 895 men in killed and wounded; and the French 5,295 men in killed and wounded, 3,005 prisoners, and 18 out of 17 ships engaged in the action—that of the *Bay of Aboukir*, where the French had 8,000 men engaged, and the Turks 9,000; and every man of the Turks was lost, in killed, wounded and prisoners—*Norvi-Egers-Marengo*, a most desperate and bloody engagement. *Maida*, where the French, out of 7,500 men engaged, lost about 4,800 in killed, wounded and prisoners. *Talavera*, another famous and bloody

engagement—*Albuera*, where the British, out of 7,500 men engaged, lost 4,300—*Salamanca*—*Vitoria*—*Toulouse*—*Paris* and *Quatre Bas*.

In all these battles, the loss, in killed and wounded, on all sides, was at least a million of men besides thousands in skirmishes, minor engagements, &c., and that within a period of less than thirty years! Enormous as is this loss and injury of life,—of those who fall in battle and are maimed by wounds,—it is but small compared to the loss of life caused otherwise by war. "The numbers killed and wounded in battle," says a writer, "are no full index to the loss of life in war, and seldom comprise one-fourth of its actual victims." It is small compared to the immense numbers carried off by disease, exposure, and other casualties incident to war.

Allison says of the campaign of 1799: "In little more than four months the French and Allied armies had lost nearly half of their collective forces; those cut off, or irretrievably mutilated by the sword, being about 116,000 men." And, "The survivors of the French army from the Russian campaign, were not more than 85,000 men, out of an army of about 500,000 men!"

Such are the curses of war! It is the great calamity that can befall a nation, and more to be dreaded than plague, pestilence or famine. If it has any advantages, they are of such character as the hurricane or earthquake produce in nature—more of a negative than of a positive character—in the destruction of tyrannical systems of error and oppression. War should be a *ultima ratio*; and a nation should submit to almost any evil rather than engage in one.—[N. Y. Times.

Facts about Friday.

From time immemorial Friday has been frowned upon as a day of ill-omen. And though this prejudice is less prevalent now than it was of yore, when superstition had general sway, yet there are many, even in this matter of fact age of ours, who would hesitate on a day so inauspicious, to begin an undertaking of momentous import. And now many brave mariners, whose hearts unquiescent could meet the wild fury of their ocean home, would blanch to even bend their sails on Friday. But to show with how much reason this feeling is indulged, let us examine the following important facts in connection with our own settlement and greatness as a nation, and we will see how great cause we Americans have to dread the fatal day.

On Friday, August 8th, 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed on his great voyage of discovery.

On Friday, October 12th, 1492, he first discovered land.

On Friday, 4th January, 1493, he sailed on his return to Spain, which, if he had not reached in safety, the happy result would never have been known which led to the settlement on this vast continent.

On Friday, March 15th, 1493, he arrived at Palos in safety.

On Friday, November 22nd, 1494, he arrived at Hispaniola, on his second voyage to America.

On Friday, June 13, 1494, he, though unknown to himself, discovered the continent of America.

On Friday, March 5th, 1495, Henry VII, of England, gave to John Cabot his commission, which led to the discovery of North America. This is the first American State paper in England.

On Friday, September 7th, 1565, Melendez founded St. Augustine, the oldest settlement in the United States by more than 40 years.

On Friday, November 10th, 1620, the May Flower, with the Pilgrims, made the harbor of Provincetown. And on the same day signed that August Compact, the forerunner of our present glorious Constitution.

On Friday, December 22nd, 1620, the Pilgrims made their final landing on Plymouth Rock.

On Friday, February 22nd, 1732, George Washington, the Father of American Freedom, was born.

On Friday, June 16th, Bunker Hill was seized and fortified.

On Friday, October 7th, 1777, the surrender of Saratoga was made, which had such power and influence in inducing France to declare for our cause.

On Friday, September 22nd, 1780, the treason of Arnold was laid bare, which saved us from destruction.

On Friday, October 19th, 1781, the surrender at Yorktown, the crowning glory of American arms.

On Friday, 7th, 1776, the motion in Congress was made by John Adams, seconded by Richard Henry Lee, that the United Colonies were and of right ought to be free and independent.

Thus, by numerous examples we see that however it may be with the other nations, Americans need never dread to begin on Friday any undertaking, however momentous it may be.

SHIPMENT OF QUARTZ GOLD.—The Anglo-California Gold Mining Company, located at Brown's Valley, in Yuba county, make a shipment of \$2,500. It is believed, the first shipment made to Europe by any quartz company in this State.

EFFECT OF LIGHT UPON PLANTS.—A plant will only grow under the influence of light. The plant is placed in the soil in darkness, when a chemical change takes place. If a plant is deprived of light it no longer forms wood. The quantity of light regulates the growth of the plant. Each year's growth of a tree is indicated by a series of fibrous rings, from which we can determine for every year the quantity of sunshine to which the tree has been exposed; also, which has been the sunny side. For the production of every cubic inch of wood a certain degree of chemical influence of the sunlight and calorific power is essential. Timber is produced by the tree absorbing through the bark and leaves the carbonic acid (carbon and oxygen) from the atmosphere.

Under the influence of light, the plant by its own vital forces decomposes the carbonic acid. In virtue of the vital force excited by solar influence the carbonic acid is decomposed; and oxygen is set free for the use of the animal kingdom generally, and carbon goes to constitute the woody structure of the plant. If we ignite wood it gives out light and heat, from which we can produce a certain amount of chemical effect, the same elements as form sunshine.

The quantity of light and chemical forces arising from combustion, represent exactly that quantity which is necessary to occasion the plant to grow. The coal fields are formed by the chemical decomposition of fern-like flora of a peculiar kind. Vegetable life rapidly decomposed under the conditions of a tropical swamp—our coal is the produce of tropical forests. We employ coal in our domestic operations; we subject it to distillation, obtain from it a fluid which circulates through our streets and our dwellings. We ignite it, and obtain that light which was once derived from solar heat, which in countless rays had fallen upon these lands ere yet man had set his foot upon them, in ages long past gone.—Scientific American.

THE GREAT PLAINS OF THE WEST.—The idea generally entertained, says the St. Louis Republican, that the immense arid plains lying between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains must remain forever unsettled and uncultivated on account of the scarcity of water and fuel, is likely to undergo a change. Scientific men are now exploring the plains, or prairies, and from the little we hear of their researches, the prospect appears good that an abundance of coal and water can be obtained at a small outlay of money and labor. Successful experiments have been made in testing the practicability of boring artesian wells, and the result is most satisfactory. In one instance, near the Pecos river, about the thirty-second parallel, at the depth of six hundred and fifty feet, the greatest abundance of perfectly pure water was obtained. Besides this, the operation developed the existence of coal beds, easily accessible, and as far as the experiments have progressed, evidently underlying the whole of that immense country.

The importance of this discovery will at once be apparent. If rivers cannot be created by these wells, water sufficient may be obtained for all the purposes of irrigation, and thus the plains may become as thickly inhabited, and the land rendered as productive, as any other portion of our country. With plenty of coal for fuel, the want of timber will hardly keep back the pioneer; for the materials for building are too numerous to admit of such a supposition. The thorn will doubtless grow as well there as here, and live hedges, even in sections where forests are abundant, are now adopted by the farmers.

SHARPE'S RIFLES.—The following account of Sharpe's rifles, from *The Missouri Democrat*, will be read with interest at the present moment: "This recently invented weapon, if it possesses one half of the power and capacity claimed for it by its proprietor, is destined soon to supersede every other weapon for warlike purposes now in existence. It is the most efficacious and terrible firearm in existence. The small carbine now used by the United States mounted men throws a ball with deadly accuracy one quarter of a mile, and can be fired ten times per minute. It is not complicated in structure, is easily cleaned, and suffers no injury from wet weather. Mr. Sharpe is now preparing models for four new species of his weapon, namely: A small pocket pistol, calculated to throw a Minnie ball one hundred yards; a cavalry pistol with a range of five hundred yards; a rifle suitable for footmen, with a range of one mile, and a large gun to throw a two-ounce ball or a small shell one mile and a-half, or as far as a man or horse can be seen to advantage. With this latter weapon Mr. S. declares he can set on fire a house or a ship at a distance of nearly two miles, and prevent the use of field artillery, by killing the horses before the guns are brought within a good range.

"This rifle in the hands of a good marksman, is equal to ten muskets, bayonets and all, for, place a man six rods distant with a musket and bayonet, and before he can bring the bayonet into use, the rifle can be loaded and discharged ten times. They carry balls with great precision and force. Mr. Sharpe intends these rifles to become a national weapon, and should Congress, by using a little liberality purchase the patent, the country would be possessed of warfare unequalled in the world."

BURNING.—An Irish drummer, who now and then indulged in a noggin of right good poteen, was accosted by the reviewing general: "What makes your nose so red?" "Please yer honor," replied Pat, "I always blush when I speak to the general officer."

THE ERROR OF THE ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT gives this receipt to kill fleas on dogs: Soak the dog for five minutes in camphene, and then set fire to him. The effect is instantaneous.

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INFORMATION WANTED, ABOUT BENJAMIN SPIKING, aged 19 years, who it is supposed, left Illinois for California in company with his brother, about five years ago. When in Illinois he was placed under the guardianship of one James Bonnell. Any person knowing the above individual, or can give any information regarding him, will please communicate with the Editor, and confer a favor on his relatives.

In 14 Monthly Parts Royal Octavo, at 50 cents each.

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Hyrum Smith, from an original portrait in the possession of his family;
Willard Richards, from a Daguerrotype;
John Taylor;
Carthage Jail;
Room in which Joseph and Hyrum were imprisoned;
Well against which Joseph Smith was placed and shot as after his assassination;
Boles of the Temple at Nauvoo;
Lucy Smith, Mother of the Prophet;
Joseph Smith, Jun., & Sons of the Prophet;
David Smith.

Entrance to Kanabville;
Council Bluff Ferry, and group of Cottonwood trees;
View of the Missouri River, and Council Bluffs, from an elevation;
Elk Horn River Ferry;
Leap Fork Ferry;
Wood River;
Chimney Rock;
Scott's Bluffs;
Fort Laramie;
Independence Rock;
Devil's Gate;
Laramie Peak;
Witcher's Bluffs;
Great Salt Lake;
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Heber C. Kimball, from a Daguerrotype;
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President Brigham Young, also Governor of Utah Territory.

Wood Cuts by Mason Jackson:

Emigrant Ship leaving Liverpool;
Light House at the mouth of the Mississippi;
Old Fort Snelling;
Walnut Hills;
Utah Territorial House, G. & I. City;
Customs for the Plains;
Chimney Rock from the West.

Fort Bridger;
A Canon in the Rocky Mountains;
Tabernacle, G. & I. City;
Joseph Walker, and Arapace, brothers, and Chiefs of the Utah Indians, from original drawings by W. W. Major.

The First No. of the above Work was published in Liverpool, by Franklin D. Richards, in July last, and will be continued monthly until complete. Persons wishing to obtain copies can leave their orders at our Office, No. 1184 Montgomery Street. Immediate application should be made, to enable us to forward our orders to Liverpool, and obtain them at an early date.

BOOKS FOR SALE.

WE HAVE received, and have on hand, the following works,—imported by Elder P. P. Pratt—Illustrative of the doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: they can be had by applying at the office of THE WESTERN STANDARD, 1184 Montgomery Street.

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INFORMATION WANTED,

ABOUT PETER HOAGLAND, a young man who left Great Salt Lake City, U. T. in October 1849, for California, and has since that time been residing in various parts of the Mines.—When last heard from he was in company with a young man by the name of Samuel Fox, from the same place, in the vicinity of Nevada. Any person possessing information as to his whereabouts will confer a favor on his relatives, by communicating with the Editor.